United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.34

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
4 December 2002

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 34th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 November 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)
later: Mr. Kára (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

Contents

Agenda item 93: High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development (*continued*)

Address by Mr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Address by Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

02-69582 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 93: High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.36

1. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution in document A/C.2/57/L.36. The Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development was one of the most important documents adopted in recent years by the United Nations. The sponsors had followed the structure of the Consensus, including the main mandates and guidelines set forth therein, so that the United Nations and the international community could begin implementation of the Consensus and the commitments made at the Conference. The draft resolution sought to lay the foundation for the creation of means for channelling financial resources for economic and social development in the most efficient and coherent manner possible.

2. **Mr. Davison** (United States of America) said that his delegation was disappointed with the draft resolution, which appeared to be a repudiation rather than a reaffirmation of the Monterrey Consensus and did not reflect the holistic nature of the financing for development agenda. His delegation had been struck by the complete absence of references in the text to the primacy of national responsibilities and to the need for good governance and sound economic policy at the national level. It appeared that the Group of 77 was abandoning its commitments to Monterrey. His Government would certainly take that fact into account when contemplating how to realize its own commitments to Monterrey. The tone and overall imbalances in the draft resolution were inappropriate, and it would be desirable for the Group of 77 to produce an amended text that more accurately reflected the holistic nature of financing for development and the consensus aspect of the Monterrey Conference.

3. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the tone of the statement made by the United States delegation was inappropriate, considering the dialogue which had led to the Monterrey Consensus. The sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.36 hoped that the United States delegation would change its tone and enter into the spirit of Monterrey. They did not claim to have submitted a perfect resolution but had assumed that others would contribute elements that were not included in their text. The draft was holistic, inasmuch as it incorporated the structure of the Monterrey Consensus. The sponsors would not be producing a new version, but would appreciate proposals from other delegations for consideration in negotiations on the draft resolution.

Address by Mr. Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

4. **Mr. Toepfer** (United Nations Environment Programme), introducing the report of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) (A/57/25), said that the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was focused on the interrelationship between the environment and development and on concrete and measurable implementation.

5. A real round of trade negotiations was needed, as decided in Doha. It was important to open markets and fight against economically and environmentally perverse subsidies, especially in agriculture. Foreign direct investment must be increased, and more must be done to reduce the debt burden, to implement the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and to reverse the negative trend in official development assistance (ODA). Those measures could do more for the global environment than good intentions that were not acted on. To realize the Millennium development goals and move forward on the targets, timetables and commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, action-oriented tools were needed. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) provided an example of a new and stimulating initiative for Africa. The next meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP, to be held in Nairobi in 2003, would focus on the environmental dimension of NEPAD, as well as of the regional initiatives adopted in Johannesburg.

6. Unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the developed world were an important source of environmental problems at the global and national levels and contributed to poverty, underdevelopment and environmental degradation. Under its mandate for assessment and early warning,

UNEP had prepared the third Global Environment Outlook (GEO3) as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to provide policy makers with an authoritative assessment of the state of the environment and its implications for all aspects of sustainable development. In that regard, UNEP was paying special attention to the increasing severity of desertification and land degradation, the dramatic decrease in biodiversity and genetic resources, the increasing threat of chemicals to human health, the drastic consequences of climate change, and unsustainable consumption and production patterns. In addition, UNEP was addressing issues relating to oceans and freshwater through the Global Programme of Action, the Global Environmental Monitoring System and the Global International Waters Assessment.

7. Environment was a vital resource for development, and UNEP was aware of the need for cooperation within the United Nations system, with civil society and with private business, which must assume its corporate responsibility. His organization was committed to implementing partnerships, which had been a key focus of the Johannesburg Summit. He was pleased that the World Summit had endorsed the outcome of the seventh special session of the Governing Council without change, and hoped that the Second Committee would do likewise.

8. In preparation for the next GC/GMEF, UNEP was focusing on ensuring that its plans responded to the needs and priorities defined in the Summit Plan of Implementation and the Millennium development goals. In particular, UNEP would be assessing the implications for its future programme of work of the Governing Council's decision on international environmental governance. Steps were being taken to strengthen the role and structure of GC/GMEF, in order to improve coherence in international environmental policy-making and to review the role of the Environmental Management Group (EMG) in enhancing coordination across the United Nations system. Capacity-building at the national and regional levels would be strengthened. Also, as agreed in Cartagena, UNEP was developing ways to improve coordination among and effectiveness of the many multilateral environmental agreements. To strengthen its role and financial situation, UNEP had developed a proposal for an indicative scale of assessments which would be discussed at the GC/GMEF to be held in February 2003. As a result of its efforts to ensure stable, adequate and predictable financing, UNEP was meeting its target of 100 countries contributing to the Global Environment Fund. The responses of governments had been very positive.

9. Significant progress had also been made in strengthening UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. The amount of US$ 1.4 million had been advanced from the UNEP reserve for construction of new facilities to meet the increasing demand for space. There was no longer any questioning of Nairobi as an appropriate headquarters location for UNEP. However, there were still some difficulties. The regular budget contribution to UNEP continued to account for less than five per cent of its resources. The rent that UNEP paid for office space to the United Nations was approximately the same as the amount it received from the regular budget. Those issues must be addressed.

Address by Ms. Joke Waller-Hunter, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

10. **Ms. Waller-Hunter** (Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) said that the report in document A/57/359 concerned the outcome of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in Marrakesh in October and November 2001.

11. The eighth session had been held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002, and its outcome reflected an important transition from negotiations to implementation. Ninety-six Parties had ratified the Kyoto Protocol, including developed countries accounting for 37.4 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions. Poland and the Republic of Korea had announced their ratifications at the Conference, and the Russian Federation and a number of other countries had indicated during the World Summit on Sustainable Development that they planned to ratify in the near future. Thus the Protocol would enter into force in 2003 and the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol could be held in Italy in December 2003.

12. The outcome of the eighth session had consisted of two main components: a number of decisions to advance implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention, and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, which built on the outcome of the World Summit on

Sustainable Development. The Delhi Declaration had emphasized that, in addition to acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Parties to the Convention must also give high priority to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. It had also reiterated the importance of implementing existing commitments under the Convention, and had called for early ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. The Delhi Declaration had also called for the adoption of less polluting energy and other innovative technologies, and had urged Governments to increase renewable energy resources and to promote the transfer of technologies in order to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in major economic sectors, including through private sector and market-oriented approaches.

13. The session had made good progress on a number of important issues of implementation. The clean development mechanism was now operational, and the first projects under it were likely to be submitted for approval early in 2003. The Conference had also agreed on simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale clean development mechanism projects, which lowered transaction costs and enhanced the attractiveness of such projects for investors. With small-scale projects, the clean development mechanism would be able to ensure that foreign direct investment, which at present was directed to a limited number of countries, reached a broader range of developing countries. The Conference had also agreed with the clean development mechanism Executive Board's proposal to facilitate the designation of the so-called operational entities to validate and register projects as well as to verify and certify emission reductions. That was important in order to ensure environmental integrity in the system. Finally, the Conference had approved the proposed rules of procedure for the Board, which were essential to its efficient, cost-effective and transparent functioning.

14. At the eighth session, the Conference had finalized guidelines establishing the rules for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and the accounting of assigned amounts, which constituted the basis for assessing the fulfilment of commitments of Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. The guidelines also set the rules for the reporting of the information submitted by those Parties and its review. With those guidelines in place, implementation of the Protocol could be monitored and registered in a fully transparent system.

15. A further important achievement of the session had been the adoption of a five-year New Delhi Work Programme on article 6 of the Convention dealing with education, training and public awareness. The Parties had agreed on a list of activities that could be undertaken at the national level, as well as several elements that would enhance regional and international cooperation on the issues in question.

16. The Conference had reviewed the effectiveness of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and had invited the secretariats of GEF and the Convention to work further on streamlining the guidance which the Conference of the Parties was giving to GEF and to begin a process of determining the funding that was necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention. The Conference also provided guidance to GEF that would allow speedy functioning of the special climate change fund and the least developed countries fund, established at its seventh session. The least developed countries fund was now fully operational, with an initial funding of $12 million, and would finance the development of national action programmes for adaptation being carried out by those countries with the support of the special climate change fund.

17. The Conference had also agreed on new guidelines for the preparation of the second national communications from the non-Annex I Parties, which were an improvement on the existing ones in that they would enhance the quality of national reporting and facilitate a better exchange of information. The Parties had also emphasized the need to implement the measures agreed at the seventh session to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to address the challenges posed by climate change. An informal mechanism had been established between the Convention Secretariat and key intergovernmental organizations, including GEF and its implementing agencies which delivered capacity-building support to the Parties. The Conference had noted the progress made by the Convention's Expert Group on Technology Transfer, and encouraged it to continue its work. The Delhi Declaration had placed strong emphasis on technology transfer, establishing a firm link with the energy outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

18. As evidence mounted that the adverse impact of climate change would undermine national and international efforts to achieve sustainable development, there was an obvious need for vigorous

national and international action to deal with climate change. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the results of the eighth Conference of the Parties both pointed in the direction of enhancing such international cooperation.

19. *Mr. Kára (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/57/25, A/57/132, A/57/84-S/2002/645, A/57/202, A/57/329, A/57/331, A/57/343, A/57/350, A/57/422-S/2002/1064)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*) (A/57/3 (Parts I and II), A/57/444, A/57/460, A/57/497, A/CONF.199/20)

20. **Mr. Leslie** (Belize), speaking on behalf of member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that were Members of the United Nations, said that the international community had faltered in the achievement of the goals of Agenda 21 for a host of reasons, including failure to embrace a collective responsibility for advancing and strengthening the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development. The outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its Plan of Implementation had given the CARICOM countries renewed hope that sustainable development could be achieved through human solidarity and constructive partnerships. The commitments made at the International Conference on Financing for Development to increase ODA had been welcome, but full and effective implementation of Agenda 21 would require new and additional resources.

21. The CARICOM countries welcomed the adoption of the "polluter pays" principle. Although they had been responsible caretakers committed to the protection and preservation of their environment, those countries had suffered a great deal. Several had been severely affected by adverse weather conditions, including floods and hurricanes, with the poor always being worst affected. Their economies were becoming more fragile and vulnerable because of external influences, including man-made and natural disasters. They wished to express their gratitude to the international community for its rapid response to such disasters, but called on it to become more proactive in dealing with them: more resources must be provided to mitigate the adverse effects of such hazards in the Caribbean region and to prevent them from becoming disasters. Every dollar spent on disaster mitigation saved hundreds of dollars in response and rehabilitation.

22. Trade, and particularly its liberalization, were essential for the growth of the developing countries, yet the fruits of globalization had not redounded to their benefit, and their economies continued to deteriorate even as they became increasingly open. For the CARICOM countries, certain key systemic issues had to be addressed in order to ensure that the benefits and costs of globalization were equitably distributed. The decision-making process on trade-related issues had to be fair, transparent and all-inclusive. The question of market access had to be addressed with a view to the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Equitable and constructive partnerships should be pursued between developed and developing countries for their mutual benefit.

23. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development had mandated a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, and negotiations were under way to determine the modalities of that review. The CARICOM countries believed that the Barbados Programme of Action should not be renegotiated, but they welcomed a frank and comprehensive review, with a summit segment, to consider the best means for its further implementation. They hoped for agreement on the draft resolution on the agenda item relating to it, and looked to the international community to make the necessary resources available.

24. In certain areas, the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development would need to be re-engineered in order to enable it to focus more on implementation in respect of the issues relating to the three pillars of sustainable development. It should be more results-oriented and follow a target-oriented programme of work. It should not be bound by themes, but there should be sufficient flexibility to enable Member States to bring to its attention current and pressing issues relating to their achievement of sustainable development. CARICOM would welcome an operational session of the Commission in January 2003 to discuss those proposals in greater detail, as well as to discuss the practical and operational elements surrounding the ten-year comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action.

25. **Mr. Traub** (United States of America) said that the most important message from the World Summit was probably that sustainable development depended not just on the United Nations or government promises but also on the actions of all stakeholders. Efforts on the ground based on well-conceived strategies and undertaken in true partnership were the only way of making lasting progress on sustainable development. His Government had announced at the Summit more than a dozen United States-led partnerships for sustainable development. It was also pleased to be part of a collective effort that had launched more than 200 partnership initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of the poor and the needs of the planet. The United Nations should acknowledge and fully embrace those outcomes of the Summit.

26. His country was committed to building on the Summit's momentum towards implementation and enthusiasm for real action. The Commission on Sustainable Development should play an important role in focusing, and acting as a catalyst concerning the international community's efforts, on implementation. It must quickly undertake specific reforms called for in the Summit Plan of Implementation, notably those of limiting negotiations in its sessions to every two years; limiting the number of themes addressed at each session; and serving as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promoted sustainable development, including sharing lessons learned, progress made and best practices. The General Assembly must empower the Commission to move quickly on the new reforms, and the Commission must hold an organizational meeting as soon as possible in 2003 to discuss how it would implement them. The Commission must become an innovative forum for the entire sustainable development community and a vital catalyst for effective action. It was time to adapt to the new focus on implementation, and achieve real results.

27. **Mr. McIvor** (New Zealand) said that the World Summit had made progress on a number of areas that were of priority interest for his country, although it would have preferred greater focus on new targets and goals in the outcome documents. The next step was to identify the appropriate response of the multilateral agencies to the agreements reached. Also, each Member State must ensure that there was early movement on the implementation process. Concerted global, national and regional efforts would be required.

28. New Zealand welcomed the Summit decisions on the future organization and work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had laid the basis for it to become a more relevant, action-oriented body focused on implementation. That would require flexibility in terms both of outputs and of participation. New Zealand would like greater participation in the Commission by experts discussing genuine sustainable development issues. It was appropriate for the Commission to spend every other year monitoring and encouraging implementation of programmes, but it should also provide for more direct and substantive involvement by international organizations, notably by enhancing its linkages with the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to realizing the sustainable development benefits of multilateral trade reform. Noting the Summit decisions on the elimination of subsidies in the fisheries and energy sectors, New Zealand considered that WTO was uniquely placed to perform a leadership role in that work, and would wish the Commission in alternate years to monitor WTO progress until the completion of the Doha Development Agenda and beyond. The focus of sectoral or thematic debates in intervening years would have to be carefully planned: the Summit's call for concentration on cross-cutting themes and balance between the three pillars of sustainable development represented a difficult challenge, and more time was needed to reflect on possible topics. Clearly, the Commission must become a body that could offer solutions to practical problems of sustainable development without necessarily becoming embroiled in negotiations, North-South rhetoric and position-taking. A flexible and creative approach would be needed to the modalities for its future work, particularly in years when it had been decided that there would be no negotiations. New Zealand looked forward to working with others to create a vibrant, practical and relevant Commission.

29. **Ms. Battungalag** (Mongolia) said that, while the Johannesburg Summit had given new impetus to global action promoting the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, the road to achieving the Summit's noble goals would be difficult and challenging. Mongolia, which was highly susceptible to natural disasters and to fluctuations in commodity prices, attached special importance to sustainable development.

30. Her delegation welcomed the progress achieved in implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the outcomes of the second GEF Assembly, particularly the designation of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as a new focal area of the Facility. Combating desertification was one of the top priorities on her Government's development agenda. It had designated 13.2 per cent of the country's total land mass as a protected area and was contemplating placing almost the entire territory of Mongolia under special environmental protection, in order to prevent the spread of desertification not only in Mongolia but also in Central Asia and beyond.

31. Despite the considerable efforts made by her Government in the area of sustainable development, the country still faced enormous environmental challenges. A series of natural disasters, droughts and serious snowfalls over the past three years had impoverished thousands of herdsmen and their families. That was why Mongolia attached special significance to the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. With a view to building national capacity and improving the disaster management system, her Government was taking steps towards disaster mitigation in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Luxembourg. Mongolia also supported the work of the Inter-agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and cooperated with the Task Force and its working group on climate change and natural disasters. Lastly, Mongolia supported the strengthening of the institutional framework of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

32. **Mr. Rim** Song Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) deplored the widening gaps in wealth between developed and developing countries and the increasing marginalization of developing countries in international economic relations. In recent years, overall development in those countries had been constantly deteriorating owing to poverty, the heavy external debt burden and the negative impact of globalization, among other factors. Shortages of food, drinking water, energy and shelter, as well as inadequate sanitation were denying millions of people their fundamental right to survival.

33. In a few developed countries, the unsustainable pattern of production based on selfish and unfair competition had resulted in surplus wealth that was squandered. That, in turn, led to excessive consumption of natural resources and hindered stable and sustainable development. While millions of people were suffering from food shortages and such diseases as HIV/AIDS in one part of the globe, considerable sums were spent disposing of surplus products in another part. Another serious challenge to sustainable development was the state of international peace and security. While the cold war had ended 10 years previously, conflicts, arms races and unilateral economic sanctions were still damaging the global ecological environment and threatening the security and survival of mankind.

34. Environmental protection and sustainable development were essential to the common prosperity of mankind. To that end, each country should muster the political will to provide a decent environment for present and future generations and establish equitable international economic and trading relations that were propitious to sustainable development. No attempt should be made to interfere in other countries' internal affairs by applying unilateral and coercive economic sanctions or imposing the economic systems of one country as a model of development. Moreover, attaching political conditions to development assistance and putting pressure on or even mobilizing military means against other countries for economic purposes should never be tolerated. Rather, measures should be taken to ensure the access of products from developing countries to the world market on favourable terms.

35. Stressing the need for the establishment of a favourable environment for sustainable development in developing countries, he said that top priority should be given to eradicating poverty in those countries through cancellation or reduction of their unsustainable debt burden and increased ODA. That should go hand in hand with a variety of new types of additional development funds and the transfer of environmentally friendly technology.

36. Peace and security were indispensable to sustainable development. His Government was focusing on developing its economy through technology, environmental protection and education in order to give its people better living conditions and bequeath a powerful nation to future generations.

37. **Mr. Pringle** (Canada) said that the World Summit had been perhaps the most ambitious attempt ever at a

highly integrated intergovernmental discussion across the three pillars of sustainable development. The breadth of its agenda had posed a stiff test to multilateralism, which participants and the multilateral system had passed with flying colours.

38. Canada was pleased that differences of approach among developed and developing countries had not prevented a substantive and positive outcome to the Summit, which had agreed on a Plan of Implementation that set out priorities and specific actions in a wide range of sustainable development sectors, including new targets on access to basic sanitation, the production and use of toxic chemicals and the stabilization of fish stocks. Of special significance to his delegation was the reaffirmation of the importance of good governance and respect for human rights to sustainable development.

39. The Summit's success had been due in no small part to its inclusiveness and the key role played by partnership before and during the meeting. Along with government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector had been active participants in the discussions. A key result of that inclusive approach had been the announcement of over 200 innovative public-private partnerships aimed at implementing sustainable development in concrete ways.

40. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, together with Agenda 21 and the Millennium development goals, gave the international community the policy framework it needed to advance sustainable development. The next absolutely essential step was implementation. Canada had already more than doubled its annual funding to UNEP, increased its contribution to a wide variety of initiatives across the sustainable development agenda and acceded to the Rotterdam Convention placing tighter controls on exports of designated chemicals and pesticides. A commitment had been made to submit the Kyoto Protocol to the Canadian Parliament for ratification by the end of 2002. Canada had also made a commitment of Can$ 6 billion to Africa over the next five years, including a new Can$ 500 million Special Fund for Africa; undertaken to double its ODA by 2010 to 8 per cent a year; and to eliminate tariffs and quotas on almost all products from the 48 least developed countries with effect from 1 January 2003.

41. Given the breadth of the Summit agenda, implementation would become the responsibility of a wide range of specialized agencies and organizations as well as ad hoc processes, such as the Third World Water Forum to be held in Kyoto in March 2003. Bilateral and multilateral aid and funding agencies would also play a major role by responding to developing countries' sustainable development priorities in a coordinated manner. The Commission on Sustainable Development should have a special role in promoting the Johannesburg outcomes. Canada was committed to ensuring the full implementation of the Summit decisions. Follow-up to the Summit should be integrated with follow-up to the Millennium Summit, the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference and the International Conference on Financing for Development and should be consistent with the framework for United Nations reform.

42. **Mr. Rotich** (Kenya) welcomed the importance given by the Johannesburg Summit to the problems affecting Africa and the recognition of the role of NEPAD as a development framework for the continent, and supported the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the General Assembly to convene an international meeting in 2004 to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action. The Summit had identified new challenges and opportunities for sustainable development; the international community now had to ensure the full implementation of the commitments and targets agreed at the Rio and Johannesburg Summits.

43. To that end, the international community should continue to work in a spirit of solidarity and partnership, ensuring that the necessary means of implementation were made available. Developed countries should, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, fulfil their commitments in order to realize the widely shared goals for sustainable development by mobilizing more financial resources, transferring environmentally friendly technologies, providing assistance in capacity-building and ensuring that products of interest to developing countries had access to the world market on favourable terms.

44. Stressing the need for strong institutional mechanisms in order to implement the actions, timetables, objectives and specific programmes in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, he reiterated the need to strengthen existing international, regional and

subregional structures, bearing in mind their respective mandates and unique roles in promoting sustainable development. Maintaining the current governance structure of UNEP and strengthening its role, authority and financial base would utilize its potential as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment. He stressed the continued need to increase allocations under the United Nations regular budget for financing the activities of the UNEP secretariat and Governing Council.

45. He underlined the critical role of effective regional, subregional and national strategies in the prevention, reduction and mitigation of the social, economic and environmental impact of natural disasters. However, the development and implementation of such strategies would require the provision of financial and technological support as well as assistance for capacity-building.

46. Climate change might be the greatest environmental challenge facing mankind. Unprecedented extreme weather patterns, as well as greenhouse gases were having profound effects on the world's environment. He called on all Member States to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and on the international community to provide technical and financial assistance and capacity-building assistance to developing countries as provided in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

47. Kenya welcomed the recent decision of GEF to include land degradation and deforestation as one of the focal areas of the Facility. Moreover, it was pleased with the commitment made at the Summit to significantly reduce by 2010 the loss of biodiversity, provide new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries and initiate negotiations on an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing with countries of origin of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources.

48. **Mr. Shin** Boo-nam (Republic of Korea) said that the time had come to develop concrete follow-up plans for each target and commitment in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The Commission on Sustainable Development should review and monitor progress on Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation, consider issues related to the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and play an active role in developing follow-up action for the Plan of Implementation. Such action should be developed, implemented and monitored in a transparent manner with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure its success. Moreover, discussions designed to revitalize the Commission on Sustainable Development should take place in a framework that provided for more direct and substantive involvement of international organizations and major groups in the work of the Commission.

49. While his delegation welcomed the hundreds of partnership initiatives launched in Johannesburg by governments and the private sector, it wished to emphasize that those partnerships were not a substitute for government responsibilities and commitments, but a means of bolstering sustainable development initiatives. In that regard, a framework should be developed to monitor those initiatives and utilize the results at the forthcoming meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant meetings.

50. Although it was very important to discuss follow-up actions to the Plan of Implementation in the relevant international institutions, including the United Nations system, it was even more crucial that each nation should integrate into all its programmes policies to further sustainable development through good governance.

51. His Government remained committed to the achievement of sustainable development. In that regard, it had completed all the domestic procedures for ratifying the Kyoto Protocol and had deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General the previous week. Moreover, his Government planned to host an international seminar in the near future focusing on follow-up actions to the World Summit and regional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia.

52. **Ms. Escorel de Moraes** (Brazil) said that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation not only encompassed the commitments and measures to further implement Agenda 21 and meet the new post-Rio challenges, but also incorporated the development and poverty eradication goals of the Millennium Declaration and set new targets for the international community as a whole. If the Johannesburg targets were to be met and sustainable development achieved, a true spirit of partnership and solidarity was needed at the international level to provide the financial

resources, technology transfers, capacity-building and market access essential for developing countries, given their limited capacity and resources.

53. The post-Johannesburg process offered an unprecedented opportunity to define new modalities to make the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development more effective in the future. The Commission's programme for the coming years needed to address major issues and involve experts and stakeholders in the discussions, while ensuring high-level participation and a meaningful and tangible outcome. In particular, the future programme should highlight renewable energy and the follow-up to Johannesburg in that sector, and tackle unsustainable production patterns and poverty eradication, while taking into account the role of the specific conventions and the obligations they entailed.

54. It had been agreed in Johannesburg that the Commission should remain the main United Nations forum for discussing sustainable development topics and for monitoring implementation. It should be strengthened to enable it to play its role of reviewing progress and promoting further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg commitments, which it was broadly agreed should be its main focus, with special emphasis on the means of implementation, an area of critical importance to developing countries.

55. Water resources were crucial to mankind and the planet. They should no longer be taken for granted and action was needed at all levels to protect and preserve water quality for the future. Brazil welcomed the forthcoming International Year of Freshwater in 2003 and the current and planned United Nations actions to highlight the importance of freshwater resources to human needs, health, agriculture and ecosystems. Two years ago, her Government had established a national agency for water to oversee water resources policy and management throughout the country, with a view to controlling the use of rivers so as to prevent pollution and waste and ensure high-quality water supply for the future.

56. In August 2002, Brazil had ratified the Kyoto Protocol, whose imminent entry into force it welcomed, in line with its conviction that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Protocol thereto offered the most appropriate instrument to guide international efforts to combat global warming, according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In Rio the developed countries had acknowledged their responsibility for sustainable development, in view of the pressures their societies placed on the global environment and the technological and financial resources at their disposal; that had been reaffirmed in Johannesburg, together with the need for the developed countries to take the lead in pursuing sustainable development.

57. **Mr. Kaemba** (Zambia) said that the World Summit had re-emphasized the need to manage natural resources in a sustainable and integrated manner, through protection of ecosystems and integrated management of land, water and marine resources. His own Government was tackling those issues as part of a national poverty reduction strategy. Furthermore, it was implementing a national environment action plan targeting water pollution and inadequate sanitation, soil degradation, air pollution, wildlife depletion and deforestation, problems whose social and environmental costs were largely borne by the poor. The strategies being followed including protecting and expanding the asset base of the poor, co-managing and co-investing their resources, promoting infrastructure and technology development, giving priority to poor areas and poverty relief, and reforming markets and planning. Those were the areas in which his Government was seeking assistance from international development partners.

58. His Government was also implementing a national water policy involving water supply and sanitation strategies geared to the environment, low-income communities and rural areas, with particular emphasis on the needs of the poor. A water resources action programme was to be developed, with comprehensive resource management strategies in order to make water widely available for domestic and industrial use. Again, international cooperation with development partners was sought in order to mitigate the effects of drought on food security in the country.

59. **Mr. Adhikari** (Nepal) said that, 10 years after Rio, Agenda 21 had yet to be implemented, while the environment was suffering as a result of population growth, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and lack of resources in developing countries. Environmental problems did not respect national boundaries and a global response was required through collective action at all levels, as reaffirmed at the World Summit. Although the Summit had paved the way for a new consensus and new partnerships in the

international community, his delegation was one of the many that wanted more robust and specific benchmarks and targets. Nevertheless, the Plan of Implementation was a sound and forward-looking document and it was now vital to implement it.

60. Poverty was the most formidable challenge facing rich and poor countries alike and sustainable development was not possible until basic needs were met in poor countries and more sustainable patterns of production and consumption were pursued in rich ones. Global warming also represented a major threat and no country could remain immune from the disastrous consequences of climate change.

61. Those problems were recognized in the Millennium Declaration, which set key goals and benchmarks for a more peaceful, healthy, prosperous and just global society, including the aim of halving the proportion of the world's population living in poverty by 2015. All countries should now bring to bear the political will and resources needed to realize those goals, which had been given fuller expression in the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation. He welcomed the benchmarks and targets set by the Summit, as well as the Type 2 partnerships which had been agreed.

62. Nepal was a disaster-prone country and 83 per cent of its land mass was mountainous. Every year, floods, landslides and changing river courses wrought devastation, destroying vast areas of fertile top soil and prime agricultural land. As a result, poverty alleviation and environmental preservation had always been priorities, particularly in poor rural areas where population pressures and over-exploitation of natural resources were a concern. The Government had set up a separate ministry to coordinate population- and environment-related policy and activities, while afforestation programmes were being introduced and national parks and wildlife reserves created, along with measures to prevent soil erosion and protect flora and fauna. Emissions standards had been introduced, polluting industries phased out in urban areas and priority given to exploiting the country's huge hydropower potential. Nepal was also striving to implement the international conventions and agreements on the environment to which it was a party. It had been celebrating the International Year of Mountains during 2002 and had set up a national committee for mountain development.

63. As one of the least developed countries, further constrained by problems linked to the Maoist insurgency, Nepal particularly needed international support from development partners, under Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation.

64. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt), referring to the report of the UNEP Governing Council (A/57/25), said that his delegation welcomed the success of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Cartagena in February 2002, as well as the ministerial consultations in progress regarding environmental management. He hoped that the relevant recommendations would be swiftly implemented and believed that UNEP had a positive role to play in that regard. He called on UNEP to cooperate with UNDP and other agencies and reiterated the importance Egypt attached to the Governing Council's decision SS.VII/7 on the environmental situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which had been adopted unanimously. The decision had expressed concern over the continuing deterioration and destruction of the environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and urged the Executive Director to take all necessary steps, on an urgent basis, to coordinate UNEP activities in the area, to follow up the findings and recommendations of the UNEP study and assist the Palestinian Ministry of Environmental Affairs in its efforts to address the urgent environmental needs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.